

Application No.: 10/383,372
Attorney Docket No.: 25052A

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket comprising a plurality of individual polymeric fibrous pieces bonded together, wherein said plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces are produced from by heat and compression to form a thermally bonded, single, uniform layer of bonded polymeric fibrous pieces, flexible, polymeric fibrous material said uniform layer having a density from about 8.0 to 80.0 kg/m³.
2. (Previously Presented) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket comprises staple fibers and bicomponent fibers.
3. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 2, wherein said staple fibers comprise glass fibers and said and bicomponent fibers comprise thermoplastic fibers.
4. (Original) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are made of scrap material.
5. (Previously Presented) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are randomly oriented.
6. (Previously Presented) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are arranged in a controlled pattern.
7. (Previously Presented) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are geometric in shape.
8. (Currently Amended) A The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, comprising a plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces bonded together, wherein said plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces are produced from a thermally bonded, uniform layer of flexible, polymeric material, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces comprise a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially 8.0 – 80.0 kg/m³ and a relatively

higher density skin along at least one face thereof, said skin having a thickness ~~of between~~ substantially 0.25 -- 10.0 mm and a density ~~of between~~ substantially 32.0 -- ~~80.0 kg/m³~~ 800.0 kg/m³.

9. (Original) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said blanket is an automotive undercarpet.

10. (Original) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket is a nonlaminated.

11. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent wet compression ~~of between~~ about 15 to about 18 percent.

12. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent dry compression ~~of between~~ about 16 to about 21 percent.

13. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer fiber blanket has a percent dry wet recovery ~~of between~~ about 85 to about 87.5 percent.

14. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said polymer blanket ~~is if~~ thermally bonded to at least one uniform layer of flexible polymeric fibrous material.

15. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 13, further comprising a secondary layer comprising a plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces bonded together in a pattern, wherein said secondary layer of polymeric fibrous pieces is produced from a thermally bonded polymer blanket ~~blanket~~ product.

16. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 13, wherein said uniform layer of said polymeric fibrous pieces ~~polymeric fibrous material has a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density of between substantially 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³ and a relatively higher density~~ has a first skin along a first face thereof, said first skin having a thickness of between about substantially 0.25 - 10.0 mm and a density of between about substantially 32.0 - 800.0 kg/m³, said polymeric fibrous pieces including fibers ~~material being selected from a group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers,~~
(b) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

17. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible polymer fiber blanket of claim 14, wherein said fibrous materials are formed from fibrous materials ~~fibrous material is selected from a group of materials consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, glass fibers, natural fibers and any mixtures thereof.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim ~~14~~ 16, wherein said uniform layer of polymeric fibrous pieces ~~polymeric fibrous material includes~~ includes a relatively higher density second skin along a second face thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said uniform layer of polymeric fibrous pieces ~~blanket~~ further comprises at least one facing layer.

20. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim ~~17~~ 19, wherein said facing layer is a material selected from ~~comprises~~ metallic foil, glass mats, polymer mats and blends thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket of claim 1, wherein said uniform layer of polymeric fibrous pieces ~~blanket~~ further comprises at least one water barrier layer.

22. - 36. (Canceled)

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37. (Currently Amended) A compressible, flexible, polymer fiber blanket comprising a plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces thermally bonded together, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces comprise a fibrous material having a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density ~~of~~ between substantially 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³ ~~kg/m³~~ and a relatively higher density skin along a first face thereof, said skin having a thickness ~~of~~ between substantially 0.25 - 10.0 mm and a density ~~of~~ between substantially 32.0 - 800.0 kg/m³ ~~kg/m³~~, said fibrous material being selected from a group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

38. (New) A multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator comprising a plurality of polymeric fibrous pieces bonded together, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces comprise a lofty, acoustically insulating portion having a density between about 8.0 - 80.0 kg/m³.

39. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 38, wherein said multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator comprises staple fibers and bicomponent fibers.

40. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 39, wherein said staple fibers comprise glass fibers and said bicomponent fibers comprise thermoplastic fibers.

41. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 38, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are randomly oriented.

42. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 38, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are arranged in a controlled pattern.

43. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 38, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces are geometric in shape.

44. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 38, wherein said polymeric fibrous pieces further comprise a relatively higher density skin along at least one face thereof.

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45. (New) The multilayer, acoustical, thermal insulator of claim 44, wherein the density of said skin is between about 32.0 and about 800.0 kg/m³.